

# IMPORTANT FACTS

## Rock Island Wet vs. Moline Dry

Let us compare the financial condition of these two cities, practically of the same population, (paying identically the same county and state tax) for the last two years, during which time Moline has been Dry, and Rock Island Wet. In the early part of the year 1916, Moline was on a cash basis, that is it was not anticipating revenue, but spending its money as it was received. As shown by the statement of the City of Moline for the fiscal year ending March Thirty-first, 1917, the expenditures of the city exceeded the income by \$43,388.51, in other words they anticipated the taxes due in the spring of 1917, for this amount, and for the present fiscal year, which will end March Thirty-first, 1918, they have issued tax warrants and anticipated their taxes to the extent of \$73,000.00. Moline never anticipated her taxes, but on the contrary always was on a cash basis until the city was voted Dry. All of which means that Moline has run behind in her finances during the last two years of a dry regime. Whereas on the other hand, Rock Island has ample funds to carry it through the present fiscal year.

### ANOTHER COMPARISON

Below we make another comparison of the financial condition of the two cities, showing the ASSESSED VALUATION, THE LIMIT OF BONDED INDEBTEDNESS THAT BOTH CITIES COULD ISSUE BONDS for, which under the constitution of the State of Illinois, is five per cent of the Assessed Valuation and the ACTUAL BONDED INDEBTEDNESS OF BOTH CITIES AT THE PRESENT TIME.

| ROCK ISLAND WET  | MOLINE DRY   |
|--|--|
| Assessed Valuation<br>\$7,469,477.00   | Assessed Valuation<br>\$7,079,402.00   |
| Limit, or extent to which<br>city could issue Bonds under<br>the State Law<br>\$373,473.75 | Limit, or extent to which<br>city could issue Bonds under<br>the State Law<br>\$353,770.10 |
| Actual Bonded indebtedness<br>at the present time<br>\$75,000.00                           | Actual Bonded indebtedness<br>at the present time<br>\$243,500.00                          |

Let us now consider that Fifty Thousand Dollars of Rock Island's bonded indebtedness is of comparatively short time bonds issued under the Schriver administration for the improvement of the Fire Department Repair of Milan Bridges, Police Alarm System, and purchase of Douglas Park. These bonds are being paid off yearly, as a matter of fact, Rock Island has only Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars of long term Waterworks bonds, which as they become due will be paid from the earnings of the Water Department of the city. In addition thereto, Rock Island last year made the final payment on \$80,000.00 of Twenty-year registered bonds.

A glance at the aforesaid figures and statement will show that Rock Island is in far better condition financially than our Dry sister city. WHY IS IT? Isn't it a fact that the loss of \$100,000.000 to the city treasury, derived from Wet sources would appeal to any fair-minded unbiased citizen as a great blow or loss to the efficiency of the various Departments of our city. Rock Island and Moline are corporations, the citizens are stockholders, from a business point of view, which city's stock would you prefer to own?

### MORE COMPARISONS

Has dry Moline kept pace in public improvements? Prior to Moline going dry these two cities annually made or expended approximately the same amounts for public improvements and while the major portion of the expense is paid by the property owner, in a great many improvements in both cities the city stands or pays a lump sum, or certain percentage of the cost of the improvement. Therefore, as a rule the more improvements made, the greater the amount the city pays.

The following comparison showing the amounts in dollars of public improvements made in each city during the period Moline has been dry will be food for thought.

| ROCK ISLAND              | MOLINE                   |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1916 ..... \$227,656.02  | 1916 ..... \$155,810.26  |
| 1917 ..... 336,190.81    | 1917 ..... 95,053.13     |
| Total ..... \$613,846.83 | Total ..... \$250,863.39 |

The foregoing comparison will show that during the time Moline has been dry our city has done almost two and one-half times the improvement Moline has done. WHY? Simply because Moline had not the cash to spare.

### STILL MORE COMPARISONS

Voters are you interested in your pocketbooks, or do you desire a higher rate of taxation? It is charged by the Wets and conceded by the Drys in Moline, that if that city at the coming election votes Dry it will be necessary for the city commission to submit to the electors of said city an ordinance for an increase in the tax rate for Municipal purposes, under the law of 1917, which was passed by the Legislature upon the most urgent request of the Dry cities of this state who are practically all in dire distress financially.

The following figures give the Tax Levy for 1918 for both the city of Rock Island and Moline.

| ROCK ISLAND                 | MOLINE                      |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| State ..... \$ .90          | State ..... \$ .90          |
| County ..... .95            | County ..... .95            |
| Roads and Bridges ..... .36 | Roads and Bridges ..... .35 |
| Schools ..... 2.96          | Schools ..... 3.00          |
| Bonds ..... .08             | Bonds ..... .00             |
| Municipal tax ..... 2.05    | Municipal tax ..... 2.55    |
| Total ..... \$7.30          | Total ..... \$7.76          |

It will be seen from the above that Moline's levy for this year for Municipal purposes is \$2.56 on each One Hundred Dollar valuation, compared with our levy of \$2.05, or approximately 25% GREATER, and in addition to this Moline must either vote a still higher rate under the Laws of 1917 or permit the efficiency of the various city Departments to lapse to a lower scale of efficiency. Ask yourself this question. Do you want Rock Island to be in Moline's position financially, with prospects of a much higher tax rate, or do you prefer Rock Island's position? If so vote "NO" and save your pocketbook. THINK IT OVER.

Shall This Township Become  
Anti-Saloon Territory?

|     |   |
|-----|---|
| Yes |   |
| No  | X |

## Municipal League of Rock Island